

Tahaa Island, French Polynesia

Known as the Vanilla Island, Tahaa scents the air with frangipani and hand-pollinated vanilla orchids. It shares a dazzling turquoise lagoon with Raiatea and offers one of the world's best drift snorkels over the Coral Garden.

-  Tender (no pier)
-  Typical call: 6-8 hrs
-  French Pacific Franc (XPF)
-  French / Tahitian
-  Vanilla Island

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — ship anchors in the lagoon; tenders drop at Patio pier or private motu

Best For: Drift snorkeling, vanilla plantation tours, pearl farms, motu beach days

Walk to center: Patio village is steps from the tender pier; no public transport on island

Don't Miss: Coral Garden drift snorkel near Motu Tautau and a vanilla farm tasting

 Getting around:  **Rideshare**  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Coral Garden Drift Snorkel** — The shallow coral passage between Motu Maharare and Motu Tautau is world-famous for its effortless drift snorkel.
- **Vanilla Plantation & Pearl Farm Tour** — Visit a working vanilla plantation to see hand-pollinated orchids and learn why Tahaa produces over 80% of French...
- **Lagoon Safari by Boat** — A full lagoon safari by outrigger or motorboat circles the island, hitting multiple snorkel spots, a motu beach stop...
- **4x4 Island Circuit** — A rugged 4x4 drive through the lush interior takes in panoramic views of the bays, neighboring Bora Bora, and the...
- **Motu Mahana Private Beach Day** — Paul Gauguin Cruises passengers are tendered to the exclusive Motu Mahana islet for a full beach day: white sand...

BEST WALKS

- **Patio Village Stroll** 0.5 km · 10 min · Flat — From the Patio tender pier, walk along the waterfront into the small village to browse the local magasin (grocery), a craft stall or...

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- No-nos (sandflies) are vicious. Pack DEET-based insect repellent — especially for vanilla plantation visits and motu beaches. The tiny biting flies are nearly invisible and leave...
- Wear water shoes in the lagoon. Coral and stonefish make bare feet a bad idea. Reef shoes or sturdy sandals are essential for any snorkel or beach stop.
- Reef-safe sunscreen only. French Polynesia bans chemical UV filters (oxybenzone, octinoxate) to protect the coral. Bring mineral/zinc sunscreen or buy it on the ship.

Tahaa Island, French Polynesia — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Coral garden

Snorkel through vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life.

P Cruise port / terminal